

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/599,534

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Fig. 1 with the enclosed Replacement Sheet in which Fig. 1 is labeled with the designation "PRIOR ART"

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-25, and 27-42 have been examined. Claim 38 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and claims 1-4 and 22-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Also, the Examiner acknowledges that claims 6-21, 27-37, and 39-42 contain allowable subject matter.

I. Objection to the drawings

The Examiner has objected to Fig. 1 because it should be labeled with the designation "PRIOR ART." Applicants have labeled the figure with the designation to overcome the objection.

II. Objection to the claims

The Examiner has objected to claims 12, 13, 22, 33, and 42 because they contain minor typographical and/or clerical errors. Applicants submit that the amendments to the claims overcome the objection.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claim 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because various terms lack antecedent basis. Applicants have cancelled claim 38 without prejudice or disclaimer and reserve the right to file a continuation application to continue prosecuting the claims.

IV. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S.P. 6,321,257 to Kotola et al. ("Kotola")

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kotola. Applicants have canceled such claims without prejudice or disclaimer and

submit that the rejection is moot. Also, Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application to continue prosecuting the rejected claims.

V. Allowable subject matter

A. Allowed claims 6-21, 32-37, and 39-42

The Examiner has allowed claims 6-21, 32-37, and 39-42.

B. Rejected claim 38

The Examiner has indicated that claim 38 would be allowed if it is amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Since the claim has been cancelled, the objection is moot.

C. Objection to claims 27-31

The Examiner has objected to claims 27-31 for being dependent upon rejected base claim 22 but indicates that they would be allowable if they are rewritten in independent form. Since claim 27 has been rewritten in independent form and since claims 28-31 directly or indirectly depend upon claim 27, Applicants submit that the objection is overcome.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

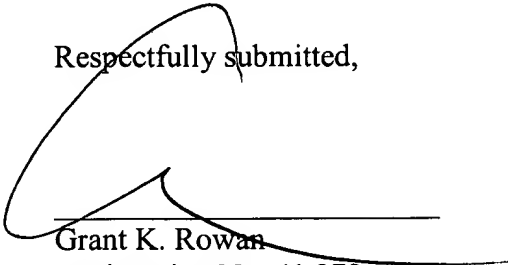
Respectfully submitted,

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